WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of a pathological condition, the method comprising administering to a subject susceptible to or afflicted with such condition an aldosterone receptor antagonist and an endothelin receptor antagonist for the prophylaxis or treatment of a pathological condition, wherein the endothelin receptor antagonist is selected from compounds other than biphenyl sulfonamide compounds.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein the aldosterone receptor antagonist and endothelin receptor antagonist are simultaneously provided to the subject as part of a single composition.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein a first amount of the aldosterone receptor antagonist and a second amount of the endothelin receptor antagonist are provided to the subject in sequence as part of a timed relationship.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein the pathological condition is selected from the group consisting of hypertension, cardiovascular disease, renal dysfunction, liver disease, cerebrovascular disease, vascular disease, retinopathy, neuropathy, insulinopathy, edema, endothelial dysfunction, and baroreceptor dysfunction.

5. The method of claim 4 wherein the cardiovascular disease is selected from the group consisting of heart failure, arrhythmia, diastolic dysfunction, systolic dysfunction, ischemia, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, sudden cardiac death, myocardial fibrosis, vascular fibrosis, impaired arterial compliance, myocardial necrotic lesions, vascular damage, myocardial infarction, left ventricular hypertrophy, decreased ejection fraction, cardiac lesions,

vascular wall hypertrophy, endothelial thickening, and fibrinoid necrosis of coronary arteries.

6. The method of claim 4 wherein the renal dysfunction is selected from the group consisting of glomerulosclerosis, end-stage renal disease, diabetic nephropathy, reduced renal blood flow, increased glomerular filtration fraction, proteinuria, decreased glomerular filtration rate, decreased creatinine clearance, microalbuminuria, renal arteriopathy, ischemic lesions, thrombotic lesions, global fibrinoid necrosis, focal thrombosis of glomerular capillaries, swelling and proliferation of intracapillary cells, swelling and proliferation of extracapillary cells, expansion of reticulated mesangial matrix with or without significant hypercellularity, and malignant nephrosclerosis.

7. The method of claim 4 wherein the liver disease is selected from the group consisting of liver cirrhosis, liver ascites, and hepatic congestion.

8. The method of claim 4 wherein the cerebrovascular disease is stroke.

9. The method of claim 4 wherein the vascular disease is selected from the group consisting of thrombotic vascular disease, proliferative arteriopathy, atherosclerosis, decreased vascular compliance, and endothelial dysfunction.

10. The method of claim 4 wherein the insulinopathy is selected from the group consisting of insulin resistance, Type I diabetes mellitus, Type II diabetes mellitus, glucose resistance, pre-diabetic state, and syndrome X.

11. The method of claim 4 wherein the edema is selected from the group consisting of peripheral tissue edema, hepatic congestion, splenic congestion, liver ascites, respiratory congestion, and lung congestion.

12. The method of claim 1 wherein the aldosterone receptor antagonist is an epoxy-steroidal-type compound characterized in having a 9α-,11α-substituted epoxy moiety.

13. The method of claim 1 wherein the aldosterone receptor antagonist is is selected from the group consisting of eplerenone and spironolactone.

14. The method of claim 1 wherein the aldosterone receptor antagonist is selected from the group consisting of:

pregn-4-ene-7,21-dicarboxylic acid, 9,11-epoxy-17-hydroxy-3-oxo,γ-lactone, methyl ester, (7α,11α,17α)-;

pregn-4-ene-7,21-dicarboxylic acid, 9,11-epoxy-17-hydroxy-3-oxo-dimethyl ester,(7α,11α,17α)-;

3'H-cyclopropa(6,7) pregna-4,6-diene-21-carboxylic acid, 9,11-epoxy-6,7-dihydro-17-hydroxy-3-oxo-,γ-lactone, (6β,7β,11β,17β)-;

pregn-4-ene-7,21-dicarboxylic acid, 9,11-epoxy-17-hydroxy-3-oxo-,7-(1-methylethyl) ester, monopotassium salt,(7α,11α,17α)-;

pregn-4-ene-7,21-dicarboxylic acid, 9,11,-epoxy-17-hydroxy-3-oxo-,7-methyl ester, monopotassium salt, (7α,11α,17α)-;

3'H-cyclopropa(6,7)pregna-1,4,6-triene-21-carboxylic acid, 9,11-epoxy-6,7-dihydro-17-hydroxy-3-oxo-,g-actone(6α,7α,11α)-;

3'H-cyclopropa(6,7)pregna-4,6-diene-21-carboxylic acid, 9,11-epoxy-6,7-dihydro-17-hydroxy-3-oxo-, methyl ester, (6α,7α,11α,17α)-;

3'H-cyclopropa(6,7)pregna-4,6-diene-21-carboxylic acid, 9,11-epoxy-6,7-dihydro-17-hydroxy-3-oxo-, monopotassium salt, (6α,7α,11α,17α)-;

3'H-cyclopropa(6,7)pregna-4,6-diene-21-carboxylic acid, 9,11-epoxy-6,7-dihydro-17-hydroxy-3-oxo-, γ-lactone, (6α,7α,11α,17α)-;

pregn-4-ene-7,21-dicarboxylic acid, 9,11-epoxy-17-hydroxy-3-oxo-,γ-lactone, ethyl ester, (7α,11α,17α)-; and

pregn-4-ene-7,21-dicarboxylic acid, 9,11-epoxy-17-hydroxy-3-oxo-,γ-lactone, 1-methylethyl ester, (7α,11α,17α)-.

15. The method of claim 1 wherein the endothelin receptor antagonist is selected from the group consisting of bosentan, sitaxsentan, darusentan, tezosentan, enrasentan, tarasentan, atrasentan, ambrisentan, and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, conjugate acids, and prodrugs thereof.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the aldosterone receptor antagonist is eplerenone.

17. The method of claim 1 wherein the aldosterone receptor antagonist is administered in a daily dose ranging from about 0.1 to 2000 mg, and the endothelin receptor antagonist is administered in a daily dose ranging from about 0.1 to 1000 mg.

18. The method of claim 1 further comprising administering a third amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of renin inhibitors, angiotensin I antagonists, angiotensin II antagonists, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors, alpha-adrenergic receptor blockers, beta-adrenergic receptor blockers, calcium channel

blockers, endothelin receptor antagonists, endothelin converting enzyme inhibitors, vasodilators, diuretics, cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitors, apical sodium bile acid transport inhibitors, cholesterol absorption inhibitors, fibrates, niacin, statins, cholesteryl ester transfer protein inhibitors, bile acid sequestrants, anti-oxidants, vitamin E, probucol, and IIb/IIIa antagonists.

19. The method of claim 1 further comprising administering a third amount of an ECE inhibitor.

20. The method of claim 19 wherein the aldosterone receptor antagonist is selected from the group consisting of eplerenone and spironolactone.

21. The method of claim 19 wherein the endothelin receptor antagonist is selected from the group consisting of bosentan, sitaxsentan, darusentan, tezosentan, enrasentan, tarasentan, atrasentan, ambrisentan, and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, conjugate acids, and prodrugs thereof.

22. The method of claim 19 wherein the ECE inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of CGS 26303, phosphoramidon, FR901533, TMC-66, SM-19712, SLV-306, KC-12615, KC-90095-1-AC, CGS-26303, CGS-30440, CGS-31447, CGS-26670, Sch-54470, and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, conjugate acids, and prodrugs thereof.

23. The method of claim 19 wherein the aldosterone receptor antagonist is is selected from the group consisting of eplerenone and spironolactone.

24. The method of claim 19 wherein the aldosterone receptor antagonist, endothelin receptor antagonist, and ECE enzyme inhibitor are simultaneously provided to the subject as part of a single composition.

25. The method of claim 19 wherein a first amount of the aldosterone receptor antagonist, a second amount of the endothelin receptor antagonist, and a third amount of an ECE enzyme inhibitor are provided to the subject in sequence as part of a timed relationship.

26. The method of claim 19 wherein the aldosterone receptor antagonist is administered in a daily dose ranging from about 0.1 to 2000 mg, the endothelin receptor antagonist is administered in a daily dose ranging from about 0.1 to 1000 mg, and the ECE inhibitor is administered in a daily dose ranging from about 0.1 to 1000 mg.

27. A combination comprising an aldosterone receptor antagonist and an endothelin receptor antagonist in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the endothelin receptor antagonist is selected from compounds other than biphenyl sulfonamide compounds.

28. The combination of claim 27 wherein the aldosterone receptor antagonist is selected from the group consisting of eplerenone and spironolactone.

29. A method for the prophylaxis or treatment of a pathological condition, the method comprising administering to a subject susceptible to or afflicted with such condition an aldosterone receptor antagonist and an ECE inhibitor for the prophylaxis or treatment of a pathological condition.

30. The method of claim 29 wherein the aldosterone receptor antagonist and ECE enzyme inhibitor are simultaneously provided to the subject as part of a single composition.

31. The method of claim 29 wherein a first amount of the aldosterone receptor antagonist and a second amount of the ECE

enzyme inhibitor are provided to the subject in sequence as part of a timed relationship.

32. The method of claim 29 wherein the pathological condition is selected from the group consisting of hypertension, cardiovascular disease, renal dysfunction, liver disease, cerebrovascular disease, vascular disease, retinopathy, neuropathy, insulinopathy, edema, endothelial dysfunction, and baroreceptor dysfunction.

33. The method of claim 29 wherein the cardiovascular disease is selected from the group consisting of heart failure, arrhythmia, diastolic dysfunction, systolic dysfunction, ischemia, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, sudden cardiac death, myocardial fibrosis, vascular fibrosis, impaired arterial compliance, myocardial necrotic lesions, vascular damage, myocardial infarction, left ventricular hypertrophy, decreased ejection fraction, cardiac lesions, vascular wall hypertrophy, endothelial thickening, and fibrinoid necrosis of coronary arteries.

34. The method of claim 29 wherein the renal dysfunction is selected from the group consisting of glomerulosclerosis, end-stage renal disease, diabetic nephropathy, reduced renal blood flow, increased glomerular filtration fraction, proteinuria, decreased glomerular filtration rate, decreased creatinine clearance, microalbuminuria, renal arteriopathy, ischemic lesions, thrombotic lesions, global fibrinoid necrosis, focal thrombosis of glomerular capillaries, swelling and proliferation of intracapillary cells, swelling and proliferation of extracapillary cells, expansion of reticulated mesangial matrix with or without significant hypercellularity, and malignant nephrosclerosis.

35. The method of claim 29 wherein the liver disease is selected from the group consisting of liver cirrhosis, liver ascites, and hepatic congestion.

36. The method of claim 29 wherein the cerebrovascular disease is stroke.

37. The method of claim 29 wherein the vascular disease is selected from the group consisting of thrombotic vascular disease, proliferative arteriopathy, atherosclerosis, decreased vascular compliance, and endothelial dysfunction.

38. The method of claim 29 wherein the insulinopathy is selected from the group consisting of insulin resistance, Type I diabetes mellitus, Type II diabetes mellitus, glucose resistance, pre-diabetic state, and syndrome X.

39. The method of claim 29 wherein the edema is selected from the group consisting of peripheral tissue edema, hepatic congestion, splenic congestion, liver ascites, respiratory congestion, and lung congestion.

40. The method of claim 29 wherein the aldosterone receptor antagonist is an epoxy-steroidal-type compound characterized in having a 9α-,11α-substituted epoxy moiety.

41. The method of claim 29 wherein the aldosterone receptor antagonist is selected from the group consisting of eplerenone and spironolactone.

42. The method of claim 29 wherein the aldosterone receptor antagonist is selected from the group consisting of:

pregn-4-ene-7,21-dicarboxylic acid, 9,11-epoxy-17-hydroxy-3-oxo,γ-lactone, methyl ester, (7α,11α,17α)-;

pregn-4-ene-7,21-dicarboxylic acid, 9,11-epoxy-17-hydroxy-3-oxo-dimethyl ester,(7α,11α,17α)-;

3'H-cyclopropa(6,7) pregna-4,6-diene-21-carboxylic acid, 9,11-epoxy-6,7-dihydro-17-hydroxy-3-oxo-,γ-lactone, (6β,7β,11β,17β)-;

pregn-4-ene-7,21-dicarboxylic acid, 9,11-epoxy-17-hydroxy-3-oxo-,7-(1-methylethyl) ester, monopotassium salt,(7α,11α,17α)-;

pregn-4-ene-7,21-dicarboxylic acid, 9,11,-epoxy-17-hydroxy-3-oxo-,7-methyl ester, monopotassium salt, (7α,11α,17α)-;

3'H-cyclopropa(6,7)pregna-1,4,6-triene-21-carboxylic acid, 9,11-epoxy-6,7-dihydro-17-hydroxy-3-oxo-,g-actone(6α,7α,11α)-;

3'H-cyclopropa(6,7)pregna-4,6-diene-21-carboxylic acid, 9,11-epoxy-6,7-dihydro-17-hydroxy-3-oxo-, methyl ester, (6α,7α,11α,17α)-;

3'H-cyclopropa(6,7)pregna-4,6-diene-21-carboxylic acid, 9,11-epoxy-6,7-dihydro-17-hydroxy-3-oxo-, monopotassium salt, (6α,7α,11α,17α)-;

3'H-cyclopropa(6,7)pregna-4,6-diene-21-carboxylic acid, 9,11-epoxy-6,7-dihydro-17-hydroxy-3-oxo-, γ-lactone, (6α,7α,11α,17α)-;

pregn-4-ene-7,21-dicarboxylic acid, 9,11-epoxy-17-hydroxy-3-oxo-,γ-lactone, ethyl ester, (7α,11α,17α)-; and

pregn-4-ene-7,21-dicarboxylic acid, 9,11-epoxy-17-hydroxy-3-oxo-,γ-lactone, 1-methylethyl ester, (7α,11α,17α)-.

43. The method of claim 29 wherein the ECE inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of CGS 26303, phosphoramidon, FR901533, TMC-66, SM-19712, SLV-306, KC-12615, KC-90095-1-AC, CGS-26303, CGS-30440, CGS-31447, CGS-26670, Sch-54470, and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, conjugate acids, and prodrugs thereof.

44. The method of claim 43 wherein the aldosterone receptor antagonist is is selected from the group consisting of eplerenone and spironolactone.

45. The method of claim 29 wherein the aldosterone receptor antagonist is administered in a daily dose ranging from about 0.1 to 2000 mg, and the ECE inhibitor is administered in a daily dose ranging from about 0.1 to 1000 mg.

46. The method of claim 29 further comprising administering a third amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of renin inhibitors, angiotensin I antagonists, angiotensin II antagonists, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors, alpha-adrenergic receptor blockers, beta-adrenergic receptor blockers, calcium channel blockers, ECE inhibitors, vasodilators, diuretics, cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitors, apical sodium bile acid transport inhibitors, cholesterol absorption inhibitors, fibrates, niacin, statins, cholesteryl ester transfer protein inhibitors, bile acid sequestrants, anti-oxidants, vitamin E, probucol, and IIb/IIIa antagonists.

47. A combination comprising an aldosterone receptor antagonist and an ECE inhibitor in a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

48. The combination of claim 47 wherein the aldosterone receptor antagonist is is selected from the group consisting of eplerenone and spironolactone.

49. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a first amount of an aldosterone receptor antagonist, a second amount of an endothelin receptor antagonist, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, wherein the endothelin receptor antagonist is selected from compounds other than biphenyl sulfonamide compounds.

50. The composition of claim 49 wherein the first amount of the aldosterone receptor antagonist and the second amount of the endothelin receptor antagonist together comprise a therapeutically-effective amount of the aldosterone receptor antagonist and endothelin receptor antagonist for the prophylaxis or treatment of a pathological condition.

51. The composition of claim 50 wherein the aldosterone receptor antagonist is is selected from the group consisting of eplerenone and spironolactone.

52. The composition of claim 50 wherein the endothelin receptor antagonist is selected from the group consisting of bosentan, sitaxsentan, darusentan, tezosentan, enrasentan, tarasentan, atrasentan, ambrisentan, and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, conjugate acids, and prodrugs thereof.

53. The composition of claim 50 further comprising a third amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of renin inhibitors, angiotensin I antagonists, angiotensin II antagonists, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors, alpha-adrenergic receptor blockers, beta-adrenergic receptor blockers, calcium channel blockers, endothelin receptor antagonists, endothelin converting enzyme inhibitors,

vasodilators, diuretics, cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitors, apical sodium bile acid transport inhibitors, cholesterol absorption inhibitors, fibrates, niacin, statins, cholesteryl ester transfer protein inhibitors, bile acid sequestrants, anti-oxidants, vitamin E, probucol, and IIb/IIIa antagonists.

54. The composition of claim 50 further comprising administering a third amount of an ECE inhibitor.

55. The composition of claim 54 wherein the aldosterone receptor antagonist is selected from the group consisting of eplerenone and spironolactone.

56. The composition of claim 54 wherein the endothelin receptor antagonist is selected from the group consisting of bosentan, sitaxsentan, darusentan, tezosentan, enrasentan, tarasentan, atrasentan, ambrisentan, and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, conjugate acids, and prodrugs thereof.

57. The composition of claim 54 wherein the ECE inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of CGS 26303, phosphoramidon, FR901533, TMC-66, SM-19712, SLV-306, KC-12615, KC-90095-1-AC, CGS-26303, CGS-30440, CGS-31447, CGS-26670, Sch-54470, and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, conjugate acids, and prodrugs thereof.

58. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a first amount of an aldosterone receptor antagonist, a second amount of an ECE inhibitor, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

59. The composition of claim 58 wherein the first amount of the aldosterone receptor antagonist and the second amount of the ECE inhibitor together comprise a therapeutically-effective amount of the aldosterone receptor antagonist and

ECE inhibitor for the prophylaxis or treatment of a pathological condition.

60. The composition of claim 58 wherein the aldosterone receptor antagonist is selected from the group consisting of eplerenone and spironolactone.

61. The composition of claim 58 wherein the ECE inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of CGS 26303, phosphoramidon, FR901533, TMC-66, SM-19712, SLV-306, KC-12615, KC-90095-1-AC, CGS-26303, CGS-30440, CGS-31447, CGS-26670, Sch-54470, and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, conjugate acids, and prodrugs thereof.

62. The composition of claim 58 further comprising a third amount of a compound selected from the group consisting of renin inhibitors, angiotensin I antagonists, angiotensin II antagonists, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors, alpha-adrenergic receptor blockers, beta-adrenergic receptor blockers, calcium channel blockers, endothelin receptor antagonists, endothelin converting enzyme inhibitors, vasodilators, diuretics, cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitors, apical sodium bile acid transport inhibitors, cholesterol absorption inhibitors, fibrates, niacin, statins, cholesteryl ester transfer protein inhibitors, bile acid sequestrants, anti-oxidants, vitamin E, probucol, and IIb/IIIa antagonists.

63. A kit containing a first amount of an aldosterone receptor antagonist and a second amount of an endothelin receptor antagonist, wherein the endothelin receptor antagonist is selected from compounds other than biphenyl sulfonamide compounds.

64. The kit of claim 63 comprising the first amount of the aldosterone receptor antagonist in a unit dosage form, and

the second amount of an endothelin receptor antagonist in a unit dosage form.

65. The kit of claim 63 wherein the aldosterone receptor antagonist is is selected from the group consisting of eplerenone and spironolactone.

66. The kit of claim 63 wherein the endothelin receptor antagonist is selected from the group consisting of bosentan, sitaxsentan, darusentan, tezosentan, enrasentan, tarasentan, atrasentan, ambrisentan, and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, conjugate acids, and prodrugs thereof.

67. The kit of claim 63 further comprising a third amount of an ECE inhibitor.

68. The kit of claim 67 wherein the endothelin receptor antagonist is selected from the group consisting of bosentan, sitaxsentan, darusentan, tezosentan, enrasentan, tarasentan, atrasentan, ambrisentan, and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, conjugate acids, and prodrugs thereof.

69. The kit of claim 67 wherein the angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of CGS 26303, phosphoramidon, FR901533, TMC-66, SM-19712, SLV-306, KC-12615, KC-90095-1-AC, CGS-26303, CGS-30440, CGS-31447, CGS-26670, Sch-54470, and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, conjugate acids, and prodrugs thereof.

70. A kit containing a first amount of an aldosterone receptor antagonist and a second amount of an ECE inhibitor.

71. The kit of claim 70 comprising the first amount of the aldosterone receptor antagonist in a unit dosage form, and the second amount of an ECE inhibitor in a unit dosage form.

72. The kit of claim 70 wherein the aldosterone receptor antagonist is is selected from the group consisting of eplerenone and spironolactone.

73. The kit of claim 70 wherein the ECE inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of CGS 26303, phosphoramidon, FR901533, TMC-66, SM-19712, SLV-306, KC-12615, KC-90095-1-AC, CGS-26303, CGS-30440, CGS-31447, CGS-26670, Sch-54470, and the pharmaceutically acceptable salts, esters, conjugate acids, and prodrugs thereof.